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MAY 24 2007

PATENT

Docket No: MO06010USU

Serial No.: 09/726,953

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A system that can be used to perform an ophthalmic procedure on a cornea of a patient, comprising:

a patient support that can support the patient;

a light source that can direct a light beam onto the cornea of the patient; and,

means for directing an air flow module including an outlet and a plurality of vent blades adjustably mounted to the outlet, the vent blades being adjusted to direct a laminar flow of air from the outlet, around the vent blades, and above the cornea of the patient from one side of the cornea to another side of the cornea, at a distance so that the cornea is not dehydrated by the flow of air.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a portable stand that supports said airflow module.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a control console that is coupled to said airflow module.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said patient support includes a table.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said light source includes a laser.

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6.-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) A system that can be used to perform an ophthalmic procedure on a cornea of a patient, comprising:

a patient support that can support the patient;

a laser that can direct a light beam onto the cornea of the patient;

means for directing an air flow module including an outlet and a plurality of vent blades adjustably mounted to the outlet, the vent blades being adjusted to direct a laminar flow of air from the outlet, around the vent blades, and above the cornea of the patient from one side of the cornea to another side of the cornea, at a distance so that the cornea is not dehydrated by the flow of air;

a portable stand that supports said air flow module; and

a control console that is coupled to said airflow module.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein said patient support includes a table.

10-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently amended) A method for performing an ophthalmic procedure on a cornea of a patient, comprising:

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operating an air flow module including an outlet and a plurality of vent blades
adjustably mounted to the outlet, wherein operating includes adjusting the vent blades to
direct directing a laminar flow of air from the outlet, around the vent blades, and above
across the cornea from one side of the cornea to another side of the cornea, at a distance so
that the cornea is not de-hydrated by the flow of air;

creating a flap in the cornea;

moving the flap to expose a portion of the cornea;

ablating a portion of the exposed cornea with a laser beam; and

moving the flap back onto the cornea.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising adjusting a flowrate of the flow of air.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising adjusting a direction of the flow of air.

15. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the ~~air flow directing means~~
~~includes an air flow module~~ includes a wheel rotatable relative to the outlet, the plurality of
vent blades are mounted to the wheel, and the vent blades are adjustable via rotation of the
wheel.

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16. (Currently amended) The system of claim 8, wherein the ~~air flow directing means~~ includes an air flow module includes a wheel rotatable relative to the outlet, the plurality of vent blades are mounted to the wheel, and the vent blades are adjustable via rotation of the wheel.

17. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein adjusting the vent blades includes rotating a wheel relative to the outlet, the vent blades being mounted to the wheel.

18. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the vent blades are adjusted to cause the flow of air from the outlet to have a significant horizontal component.

19. (New) The system of claim 8, wherein the vent blades are adjusted to cause the flow of air from the outlet to have a significant horizontal component.

20. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein the air flowing from the outlet has a significant horizontal component.